



### **Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* near Thebi Dam, Amreli**

On 23 January 2020, at 08:00 hrs, we were photographing a huge flock of Bar-Headed Geese (*Anser indicus*) at Thebi Dam, near Amreli. We saw some Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*) and Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) flying near a patch of shallow water, and which attracted us to photograph these terns. We found one Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*) along with the flock of terns. We went a little closer and we saw it skimming near us. The bird was very cooperative and it settled down on a mud mound near the dam infrastructure. We were lucky to get a photo with the dam seen behind it. In Amreli District, as far as we are aware, there is no previous record of this species and it was really exciting to see this beautiful bird in this region.

**Kaushal Sharma & Jaydeep Leuva:** Amreli. kaushal.shrma@gmail.com



### **Sighting of Common Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* in Jawala Lake, Savli, Vadodara**

On 18 September 2022, we visited the Jawala Lake near Savli, which is around 30 km from Vadodara. Jawala Lake (22° 34' 20" N, 73° 19' 24" E) is an irrigation reservoir in which rain water is stored. This water body is surrounded by lush green fields and tall grass which provides an excellent habitat for a lot of birds. On the periphery of the agricultural fields are thick reed beds dominated by *Phragmites karka*, *Typha angustata* and *Arundo donax* which are known to be ecologically valuable for many invertebrates and birds as they use them for roosting as well as a source of food. During the visit, we were able to see munia species namely Red Avadavat (*Amandava amandava*), Tricolored Munia (*Lonchura malacca*), and Scaly-breasted Munia (*L. punctulata*) collecting the blooms. While observing these, our attention was drawn towards two small, streaked, warblers that were moving in these dense reeds. Our presence did not seem to bother these birds as they kept moving in and out of these thickets in search of food. After some time they stopped to preen, which gave me a chance to photograph and observe them. We took some photographs and identified these as Common Grasshopper Warblers (*Locustella naevia*). The Common Grasshopper Warbler is an uncommon winter migrant to Gujarat (Ganpule 2016) and there are only a few records of this warbler from Vadodara District.

**Rahul Talegaonkar & Sujata Talegaonkar:** At - Vadodara.

### **References**

- Ganpule, P., 2016. The birds of Gujarat: Status and distribution. *Flamingo* 8 (3) – 12: 2-40.
- Patel, H., 2017. Besra in Vansada National Park. *Flamingo* 15 (3): 21.
- Patel, P. C., Bhatt, A. N. & Patel, D., 2020. Sightings of Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* near Amalsad, south Gujarat. *Flamingo Gujarat* 18 (4) 7-8.
- Shah, N., 2022. Besra *Accipiter virgatus* in Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. *Flamingo Gujarat* 5 (3): 23.
- Woodall, P. F. & Kirwan, G. M., 2020. White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World*. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.whtkin2.01>

